



“WRAIR Forward”

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Science does not lend itself to public debate in which one side is right and the other wrong. Science is not constructed on an adversary basis. Science is defined by its method, not by any position to be defended. The scientific method is more important than the nature of the solution. The weight of evidence determines the conclusion. The creative scientist is one who collects data that matter, sees the important connections, and draws the right conclusions. No systematic guidelines exist for this process, and pitfalls abound. Thus, answers, if any, that science does provide are subject to revision and improvement. In short, science encourages the clash of two opposing positions in order to build a new synthesis, but not by proving one position “right” and the other “wrong.”

-MAJ Carl A. Castro

USAREUR OPTEMPO Project

During the fifth data collection in support of the OPTEMPO Soldier Study, the USAMRU-E assessed five units in training, four at Grafenwöhr Training Area, Grafenwöhr, Germany, and one at the Combat Maneuver Training Center (CMTC) located at Hohenfels, Germany. In August, the USAMRU-E deployed a human dimensions research team to assess an OPTEMPO unit in Kosovo (Team members: Ann Huffman and Shelley Robertson). Four additional units in garrison were also assessed.

Throughout the data collection, the USAMRU-E obtained survey, interview, and objective data, as well as field observations. The USAMRU-E provided the USAREUR leadership with military briefings, one of which focuses on the Army's retention of enlisted soldiers and officers. Briefs were provided to MG Campbell, CofS, USAREUR, MG Hickerson, DCSPER, USAREUR, and to BG Ursone, Command Surgeon, USAREUR.

Huffman, A. H., Adler, A. B., Dolan, C. A., & Castro, C. A. (2000, August 17). **USAREUR/7A OPTEMPO and PERSTEMPO Study. In-Progress Report (IPR3) AUG 2000.**

Huffman, A. H., Adler, A. B., Dolan, C. A., & Castro, C. A. (2000, August 29). **USAREUR/7A OPTEMPO and PERSTEMPO Study. Special Topic: Enlisted and Officer Retention In-Progress Report (IPR 4).**

USAMRU-E hosts its 2nd International Conference on Military Deployments

The 2nd International Conference on “The Future of Warfare: Sustaining Military Performance in an Environment of High Operations Tempo” took place in Heidelberg 4-7 September at the Village Pavilion. The focus was on the impact of increased operations tempo on the health and readiness of military personnel. The new pace in operations presents both a challenge and a threat for the future of warfare.

Nearly 90 participants from 19 NATO and PfP countries participated in the conference. The

breakout was 11 NATO countries (Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, and United States of America) and 8 PfP countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Republic of Lithuania, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Sweden).



Poster design by Ingrid Harmuth,
Visual Information, CHPPM-Europe.

MG Campbell, Chief of Staff, USAREUR, made a keynote address. The conference opened with a traditional American barbecue on Labor Day, 4 September. The cultural program provided opportunities to enjoy the old university town of Heidelberg on the Neckar. The unit hosted a dinner and memorial lecture in honor of USAMRU-E's first commander, Larry Ingraham.

Participants were provided a CD of the USAMRU-E's research projects. Funding for the event was provided by U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. Our appreciation is also extended to AT&T; Auto Joncker-Ford; Schmitz Awards, Heidelberg; Siemens; SPSS, Inc.; Steelcase Strafor; University of Maryland; USAREUR Brass Band; and Volvo, for their donations and services.

Annual APA Convention

In August, MAJ Castro and Dr. Adler co-chaired a symposium titled, “Responding to Modern Militarism—The Psychological Impact on Military Forces,” at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association held in Washington. The panel presenters were:

Huffman, A. H., Adler, A. B., & Castro, C. A. Deployment history and well-being of military personnel: The gender effect.

Bienvenu, R. V., Adler, A. B., Huffman, A. H., & Castro, C. A. Psychological impact of the Kosovo deployment in the U.S. Army.

Carr, W., Roskos-Ewoldsen, B., & Prestopnik, J. Relation of spatial thinking to performance of submarine personnel.

Richard, L., & Huffman, A. H. Impact of commuter war on military personnel.

Thomas, J. L. Relationships between 360 degree leadership ratings, unit strains and stressors, and archival unit performance: Preliminary findings and directions for future research.

International Conference Presentations

The unit presented its research on soldier readiness issues and peacekeeping experiences at the 36th International Applied Military Psychology Symposium (IAMPS), and on sleep and work demands in senior leaders at the 15th Congress of the European Sleep Research Society (ESRS).

Castro, C. A., Huffman, A. H., Dolan, C. A., Bienvenu, R. V., & Adler, A. B. (2000, September). Working in the zone: Maintaining optimal readiness in U.S. soldiers. **36th IAMPS**, Split, Croatia.

Adler, A. B., Dolan, C. A., & Castro, C. A. (2000, September). U.S. soldier peacekeeping experiences and wellbeing. **36th IAMPS**, Split, Croatia.

Huffman, A. H., Adler, A. B., Calhoun, M., & Castro, C. A. (2000, September). Measuring sleep and work demands in U.S. Army senior leaders. **15th ESRS**, Istanbul, Turkey.

Force Health Protection Program

As part of the Department of Army’s Force Health Protection/Gulf War Illnesses Research Program, formerly referred to as the “Medical Surveillance” program, the USAMRU-E has received new requests for screening surveys to be administered to units at different phases of the deployment cycle. As command interest in the screening program continues, the USAMRU-E supported the 11D Kosovo post-deployment psychological screening by deploying two teams to Vilseck in September for training of 11D mental health personnel, survey administration, and scoring support. Data scanning and cleaning of more than 3,500 surveys collected in theater in April as part of the 11D Kosovo re-deployment screening have been completed and analysis is ongoing. In September, the USAMRU-E supported the 1AD in their re-deployment screening efforts by sending six thousand surveys to the Kosovo theater. Following the screening by 1AD mental health personnel, the surveys will be returned to USAMRU-E for scanning

and analysis. This quarter, the codebook for the post-deployment screening of the 1AD deployed to Albania in April 1999 for Task Force Hawk was also completed.

USAMRU-E Publications

Castro, C. A., Bienvenu, R. V., Huffman, A. H., & Adler, A. B. (2000, June). Soldier dimensions and operational readiness in U.S. Army Forces deployed to Kosovo (Abstract, p. 8). Presented at the **33rd Congress of International Military Medicine**, Helsinki, Finland.

Huffman, A. H., Martinez, J. F., Castro, C. A., & Adler, A. B. (2000, June). Assessing psychological readiness in U.S. soldiers following NATO operations (Abstract, p. 7). Presented by J. F. Martinez at the **33rd Congress of International Military Medicine**, Helsinki, Finland.

Family OPTEMPO Study

A longitudinal study conducted in cooperation with the WRAIR and USAMRU-E will begin in January 2001. The Family OPTEMPO Study complements the USAREUR’s Soldier OPTEMPO Study. Spouses from the ten units selected for the Soldier Study will be assessed over a two-year period. The interviews will be split into four categories: 1) civilian spouses, 2) dual military, 3) Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) families, and 4) single parents. The family study has three objectives: 1) determine how OPTEMPO impacts the health and well-being of the family; 2) determine the psychosocial factors that promote family health and well-being for families living in Europe; and 3) standardize assessment tools that measure family health and well-being. A pre-test of the survey was administered in September with spouses from the 1-27th Field Artillery. Although this unit will not be included in the study, the spouses provided useful comments and feedback on the survey questions.

Hail & Farewell

- Departures: Dr. Jack Martinez, Principal Investigator, 1 October 1999-14 July 2000; Ms. Shauna Metcalf, Volunteer, 27 May-27 July 2000; Mr. Aric Maines, Summer-Hire, 26 June-4 August 2000; MAJ James Ness, USAMRMC, 21 July-8 September 2000; SFC Stephen Hoxie, Brooks AF Base, 27 July-1 September 2000.
- CPT Robert Bienvenu PCS’d 31 August 2000. His new assignment is at the Division of Neuropsychiatry, WRAIR.
- New Personnel: Ms. Rachel Prayner, Ms. April Dowdey, and Ms. Paige West, Research Assistants, effective 1 July, 17 July, and 15 September, respectively; Dr. Kathleen Wright, Principal Investigator, effective 1 July 2000; and Mr. Larry Chanin, Computer Support Specialist, effective 1 September 2000.

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